

BEECH HURST NEWS



Cover picture: -

On Display: The Bits 'n' Pieces evening that was organised on 2nd February went off very well, with about two-dozen items on display from various members and about 15 people enjoying the very interesting evening. Pictured above is Nobby Clarke's last engine 'Nobby'. A report appears inside.

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Editor's Notes

Welcome to 2008! And very nearly to our new season too! With Easter being particularly early this year, we will be starting things off in mid-March – lets just hope it warms up a touch by then! It will have been a very productive winter, despite being only 5 months or so in length, with lots of projects completed and a few others well on their way to completion.

Thank you to Bob Youldon, Chris and Stephen Hutton for contributing to the last edition, as well as myself and our other regular features.

In this edition there are features on recent social events and forthcoming ones too, winter work progression, Xmas quiz answers, jokes and an updated diary of events page, so please read on and enjoy...

Andrew

Chairman's Notes

As I write, the sun is shining out over a frosty scene! Nice, but working outside is still pretty chilly when the wind blows... and only a month to the start of the running season! Unless global warming kicks in early this year, volunteers for 'Easter duties' had better keep their 'long johns' on! Nevertheless, I think we are all ready to go, just a few last little jobs to complete, dust down the equipment, get some names in the running book and we're set! A lot of work has been achieved this winter and thanks again to everyone who helped out.

This year promises to bring some new locomotives to 'the stable', the first being Norman's electric passenger coach, (a powered 4-CEP) which is undergoing trials and is nearly finished. I look forward to seeing it in service. Howard and Andrew S have acquired a 5" gauge 'Minx' to add to the steam contingent, although this year John West's 'City' is out for a new boiler and major overhaul. Ray has put new axlebox bearings in his 'Class 5', which should give it a new lease of life, and a few other engines are waiting in the wings, just about to come off the assembly lines! It promises to be an interesting year on the track.

Andrew organised a 'bits and pieces' evening earlier this month, which went very well, and in April some folks are heading west to represent us at a new ME exhibition to be held at Shepton Mallet, (weekend 12th/13th April). Details are included in the back of this edition and up on the club blackboard.

Just a reminder that our AGM is coming around again very soon (in a week or so as you read this!) and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Mike

Subscriptions

Just a friendly reminder to let you know that 2008 subscriptions are now well and truly due and the cut-off for these will be the AGM night, so if I haven't received your sub's around that time, then this will be the last newsletter that you will receive! Tariff's are the same as last year; £5 for those who are over 60 or under 18 and £10 the rest! Cash or cheque is fine, either deliverable to my address on the front of the newsletter or to the clubhouse, which is as follows: SMLS Ltd, The Clubhouse, Beech Hurst Gardens, Bolnore Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 4BX.

Andrew

Winter Work

With the 2008 season nearly upon us, this will be the last report for this winter, on work that has been carried out. The 2007 season finished in mid-October and as we are now in mid-February there has only been about 4 months down-time this winter, with preparations for the 2008 season now well under way. The drain at the front of the clubhouse is now completely finished and continues to run well and thanks to Ray we now have an up to date layout of all our 'water works' around the clubhouse that we can keep safe for future reference.

In addition to the above, Peter Chapman has continued to construct a new



aluminium bridge section for the carriage shed (**picture left**) that will soon replace the existing steel one, this together with proper springs should make the whole end a lot lighter to lift up that the current one. Peter has been working on this for many a Sunday now and is just a couple of weeks away from completion.



John Midderigh has continued to toil away with the leaves and brambles at the rear of the clubhouse

(**picture left**) and along the 'bowling green straight'. This job can be particularly hard work, especially during wet and or windy periods, but one which keeps the whole place looking so much neater and well kept, as well as giving the grass a chance to survive too.

A few painting jobs have also been completed in recent weeks, notably the window frames on the station that have been rubbed down and re-painted by John Gange, also the double gates/lamp post to the side of the carriage shed and the steel framework on the pneumatic point have all also received a 'birthday'.

Work to progress a new 'Sunday' end truck has also re-started, with the framework, new bogies and sundry chassis items now starting to be progressed under the watchful eye of Steve Turner. It may not be ready in time for the start of the new season, but it is hoped that it won't be too far behind and then it will give us time to try out the 'shoe' or 'tread' braking system this year.

There are still on or two items left to tidy up before running commences in about 3 weeks time, Ian, Mike Nick and myself spent most of last Sunday preparing another ½ ton of coal for the new season and then there will be the small task of cleaning seats, trucks, station etc... in the next couple of weekends. Thanks must go to all those who have contributed, large or small, to this winters work and as Tesco say... 'every little helps!'

Andrew

Social Events

It seems a long time ago that we were enjoying our Christmas Nosh Night at Beech Hurst, just over two months back now! It was a very well attended evening with nearly 30 people at the clubhouse for some fine food and fun photographic games. Thanks go to Val and John for organising the food and also to Ray for the photo games afterwards that really were good fun – often how little we know about somewhere we spend so much time!

A couple of weeks later the annual New Years Day run was held at Beech Hurst, with a reasonably fine day interspersed with light rain or drizzle. Several locomotives ran, including 'Butch', Norman's Class 47 and one of our 'Growler' locomotives. Nick's recently invented 'pedal machine' also made it to the track and promptly broke the record for the slowest lap ever!! Mark's 'V4' 'Bantam Cock' was also in steam, but complete with new boiler was just not quite ready for a 'spin'. It was however a very enjoyable day, if a bit chilly and was well attended with about a dozen-and-a-half people around at some point during the day. 'Little' Andrew also made an impromptu visit to the Princess Royal Hospital to have a rogue piece of grit removed from his eye, which had probably been deposited there by 'Butch'!

Finally at the beginning of this month Andrew organised a Bits 'n' Pieces



evening, the first for many years, which was also well attended by members and models! There were a lot of different pieces on display, from railway engines to Victorian motors via bearings, boats, bogies, boilers, boring tools and even a miniature steam crane (picture left)!

In fact there was enough to keep everyone amused without there being too much to overfill the space we had available.



I would like to thank everybody for their donations on display (**picture left**), it was an interesting evening that brought people together and it was chance to see what a creative club we are and to show off models that we would not normally see.

With this in mind, I hope we can provide a really good show at Shepton Mallet in April and with the promise of

many new or re-conditioned models for 2008, it should prove to be a very interesting year indeed.

Andrew

New For 2008



It is not often that we can boast anything up to a dozen new or re-conditioned engines entering service at Beech Hurst in any one year, but 2008 promises to bring just that. Large or small, they all count and it looks likely that there will be at least 10 different locomotives running this year, albeit

not all in passenger service. Of the aforementioned locos, Norman's new 4-CEP coach and Howard and Andy's acquired 'Minx' (**picture above left**) are the closest to being finally finished and making it to the rails in time for Easter, however there are several more waiting in the wings, all the way from Peter Chapman's diminutive 3 ½" gauge 'Virginia' to John Baldwin's gargantuan 5" gauge 'King' class. There will be more to follow in the April edition and through these pages I will keep you up to date on the comings and goings during the season and as Bits 'n' Pieces night proved there is plenty of quality work being undertaken by a number of active members and hopefully some of that will be on display during the course of the year.

Andrew

Christmas Quiz Answers

The pictorial Christmas quiz was a bit different this year and hopefully if you found the time to have a look at it, it was a bit of a challenge. Being that all the photographs are engineering based in their own way and era, I hoped they'd be interesting enough, without being too railway orientated.

First page top left – A fair easy 'starter for 10?' – **Angel of the North**

First page top right – Pretty tricky? – **Harland and Wolff Shipyard - Belfast**

First page bottom left – Pretty easy, hopefully? – **Blackpool Tower**

First page bottom middle – Middle of the road? – **Glastonbury Tor**

First page bottom right – Middle of the road too? – **Paddington Station**

Second page top left – Fairly easy? – **Second Severn Crossing Bridge**

Second page top right – Pretty easy? – **Spaghetti Junction (J6 of the M6)**

Second page middle left – Pretty hard? – **Standedge Tunnels (Rail & Canal)**

Second page middle right – Middle of the road? – **Terminal 5 at Heathrow**

Second page bottom left – Middle of the road? – **Chesterfield Cathedral**



With the above in mind I recently received a satellite photograph from Bob Youldon that shows an image of a steam loco entering a very famous railway town. 1 point for the locomotive and 1 point for the town it is about to pass by! These images are quite rare as they are only taken occasionally, so to find one that depicts a train

travelling along like this is very unusual indeed, certainly the first time that I have seen this. We are pretty sure we know the locomotive and I can tell which town it is too – see how you get on!

Andrew

Jokes - Dallas Police Comments

The following police comments were taken from actual Dallas police car videos:

"Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch out after you wear them awhile".

"If you run, you'll only go to jail tired".

"So you don't know how fast you were going. I guess that means I can write anything I want on the ticket, huh?"

"Yes sir, by all means you can talk to the shift supervisor if you think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I am the shift supervisor?"

"Warning? You want a warning? OK, I'm warning you that when you run that stop sign again, I'll give you another ticket".

"No sir, we don't have quotas anymore. We used to have quotas, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we want".

Ray

Jokes - Being British

Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV. And the most British thing of all? Suspicion of all things foreign!

Only in Britain do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front!

Only in Britain do people order a double cheeseburger, large fries and a DIET coke!

Only in Britain do banks leave both doors open and chain pens to the desks!

Only in Britain do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawnmowers in the garage!

Geoff

These are things you know how to use but never knew they had perfect definitions.

WIRE WHEEL

Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench at the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned guitar calluses from fingers!

PLIERS

Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

NOTE: Most often the tool used by all women.

WISE-GRIPS

Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

HACKSAW

One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija Board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

WELDING GLOVES

Heavy duty leather gloves used to prolong the conduction of intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER

A tool for opening paint cans, sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws.

CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 24-INCH SCREWDRIVER

A very large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

Ron

Forthcoming Events

By the time this edition is released the AGM will be almost upon us and hopefully you have all received your minutes from 2007.

Looking forward, the running season is barely over a fortnight away now and then it is 'right away' for 2008, an interestingly long season with Easter about as early as it can be and with our £1 fare this year it will be interesting to see how we do – hopefully very successful!

The Model Engineering show at the Royal Bath & West showground in Shepton Mallet is now just about sorted for staffing and with plenty of models promised it looks like being a very interesting weekend and hopefully a successful one too. We plan to take a variety of models, some finished and others part-built, and possibly some non-railway items. A full report with pictures will appear in the April edition.

Beyond April, SMLS members John Dalton, Melvyn Bright and Bob Frost will be visiting on 18th May to have a fun run and provide traction for our Sunday afternoon service, together with other members from the Chelmsford club and a number of guest locomotives.

Further social events will be published in the April edition of the newsletter including dates for the annual BBQ's, which are likely to be held in mid-June and at the end of August, plus further details of planned visits, including Maidstone MES coming to Beech Hurst and our return visit to Mote Park.

One other item that is in the early stages of discussion is during the course of 2008 we plan to hold a running efficiency competition to see which locomotive/driver can travel a given distance with a chosen load most economically. Unlike previous 'trials' this would be a rolling event that would be held at the convenience of the each entrant so as to give the maximum opportunity for participation. The exact format has yet to be decided, but the likelihood is, is that it would be held on Saturday mornings throughout the summer, conditions permitting, and last for about an hour, which we think would give each participant about 10 laps. The object of the test is not to see how far you can go on a given amount of coal, but given unlimited coal and a set distance, how efficiently you can use that fuel. Other factors, such as making trains stop and start a couple of times may also be part of the test, so as not to make it a non-stop run, but one where you would, like the full-size, have stations to stop at en-route and therefore making your choice of load etc... more important. More details will follow in April.

Diary of Events

1st March 2008 – SMLS AGM – Will start at approx. 1900.

6th March 2008 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

21st March 2008 – Good Friday – Official start to the 2008 running season.

3rd April 2008 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

12th/13th April 2008 – ME show at Shepton Mallet – see details above.

1st May 2008 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

18th May 2008 – Visiting locomotives from Chelmsford MES to Beech Hurst.

5th June 2008 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

28th June 2008 – Provisional date for Maidstone MES to visit Beech Hurst.

3rd July 2008 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

7th August 2008 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

16th August 2008 – Provisional date for SMLS to visit Maidstone MES.

Details of summer BBQ's, Club Nights and any special running days will be published in the April/June newsletters – look out for details.

N.B. Other events are not always shown in the diary of events because they have been arranged at short notice; check black/notice boards at the clubhouse for more details.

Andrew